



HATCHINGS from the USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA-3)

Commanding Officer: Capt. C.R. Solem
August 2002



CAPTAINS OUTLOOK



The crew's performance to date has been exceptionally professional and we've arrived where the principal prosecution of our country's war on terrorism is taking place. Our mission is to support the operations of the embarked marines ashore and protect USS BELLEAU WOOD from any threats in our area. There are significant US Navy and allied naval forces operating in our general area for support. We will be staying at sea for the vast majority of our stay in this region. The sea water temperatures are in the low 90's, the temperatures exceed 120 on the flight deck, topside and in the non-air-conditioned spaces like the Engineering spaces and galley. The crew works extremely hard in very demanding conditions. I get around the ship regularly and their enthusiasm, pride and teamwork consistently exceed my expectations. My number one priority remains safety, even in our war time environment. I state that regularly on our announcing systems and in meetings and everyone is empowered to stop an unsafe act or condition that could injure some one or damage equipment. We operate in a very risky environment, but we mitigate and reduce risks to accomplish our missions.

Thanks for your support, CAPT Craig Solem, USN

the EMPOWER YOURSELF ARG

"The best learning environment is the one where you don't know you're learning."



Our first seminar, "S/He Wrote...S/He Read", is Tuesday, August 13th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Murphy Canyon Chapel located on Aero and Santo in the Murphy Canyon Housing Area.

Together, as the ARG, we will expose email communications that are disempowering as well as ways to have positive communications with your loved ones. Discover techniques that will enhance not only your email communications, but techniques and skills that will empower YOU in every conversation. Language is the key to unlocking your personal power. Come discover and unleash your personal power.

the Empower Yourself ARG has been created to empower, educate, and inform family and friends, in an environment that is interactive and creative as well as being informative. Each month, a new topic will be explored. Child care will be provided at these mini seminars.

TEAM OMBUDSMAN

It was an honor and pleasure to meet so many families and friends of the Belleau Wood, last month at the Family Matters kick off picnic.

As our deployment expands, so has our newsletter. This month's edition of Hatchings includes several new columns. We added a "You Ask...We Answer", a column designed to answer frequently asked questions and address general concerns. We are introducing "From the desk of...Father Shaughnessy and "Spotlighting."

We would like to invite you to help us make Hatchings your newsletter. Please let us know what you'd like to see in upcoming editions. If you have something to share, let us know. We would be glad to include it in an upcoming edition. Just email or call us.

Respectfully,

Kelley & Cindy

DID YOU KNOW.....

The Literacy Program is onboard?

Family Literacy Foundation **UNITING DEPLOYED MILITARY PERSONNEL** **WITH THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH READING**

Keep your family connected during the disconnected time of deployment by participating in Family Literacy Foundation's program uniting deployed military personnel with their families! Now our deployed sailors will be able to communicate in a meaningful way with their special children back home.

Through this program, personnel deploying on USS Belleau Wood will be able to read stories aloud on video to the children in their lives while underway. The tapes will be sent home to be viewed time and again by their own children, nieces and nephews, or younger brothers and sisters. You can participate in this program by encouraging your sailor to stop by the Chaplain's office and schedule a time to make a video tape.

The ship's library has over 100 children's books to choose from ranging from "Goodnight Moon" to all four of the Harry Potter books!

"I only wish I could put into words how great it was to see his face after 2 months of not seeing him. The children were glued to the screen. I feel this program is one of the best things to come to the Navy in a very long time. I know how much it means to him to read to the children and this is one way that he can still be an active part while being away."

For information contact the Home front Coordinator:
Katrina @ katbsn@hotmail.com

"Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource."

John F. Kennedy

Lingo Showdown



Lingo Showdown is an opportunity to hone your knowledge of Navy Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Terms. Submit your answers to bwdombudsman@hotmail.com. Include your contact information as well as your sailor's information. All submission no later than 8/20/2002.

July's winners... They are: Melissa Phillips, spouse of AS3 Robert Phillips and Sarah Garringer spouse of LN1 Bryan Garringer

August's Lingo is....

BAH— What is this?

NMCRS— Who am I and what functions do I serve?

POTS— What kind of system am I?

AMCROSS Message— What is this?

Port— Where am I on the ship?

Bonus— **MEPS** - all service members went there. Where and Why did they go?



GOOD LUCK!

YOU ASK...WE ANSWER

Q. Communications styles and frequency?

A. There are primarily 3 types of communications and this is what we know of each type.

Email - although there maybe times you receive a message from your server that indicates your email could not be sent, it has been received onboard. There will be delays in replies (refer to Captain's Outlook - July 2002).

Snail mail - there are no set times and dates for mail deliveries. Just keep sending it. It will catch up with your loved one.

Phone Tree/Email Tree - these types of communication tools are only activated by the direction and discretion of the Captain.

Maintaining an accurate roster will ensure our accessibility to reach you. You can email the ombudsman careline or ask your service member to verify the roster onboard.

Gossip Is No One's Friend

The following is re-printed from Ann Landers' column, in the Virginian Pilot, 22 Aug 1985.

Dear Ann Landers: In recent years you printed a poem on the dangers of gossip and the damage it can do. Could you run it again, please? I am at this very moment the victim of some malicious rumors that have absolutely no basis in fact. These stories are ruining my health and hurting my family. Thank you so much.
Anonymous in Rochester, NY

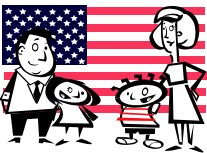
Dear Anonymous: Here it is— a masterpiece of truth. I hope it helps.

Remember me?

My name is Gossip. I have no respect for Justice.
I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.
I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.
The more I am quoted the more I am believed.
I flourish at every level of society.
My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name or face.
To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.
I am nobody's friend.
Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never quite the same.
I topple governments and wreck marriages.
I ruin careers, cause sleepless nights, heartache and indigestion.
I spawn suspicion and generate grief.
I make innocent people cry in their pillows.
Even my name hisses. I am called Gossip. Office gossip. Shop gossip. Party gossip. I make headlines and headaches. Before you repeat a story ask yourself, is it true? Is it fair?
Is it Necessary?
If not-SHUT UP.

Family Matters!

Hi Everyone! What a great time and turnout we had for the July event! We are already looking forward to the August event, "BBQ at the Beach", which is on Sunday, August 11th from 2 pm -5 pm at Heritage Park on the North Island Base. You can call (619) 545-1450 for directions. For August we are planning to have a "deli" like menu so we all can enjoy handmade sandwiches. We are asking families with the last name beginning with A - M to bring either Fruit, Soda or Sandwich bread. Families who's last name begin with N - Z please bring either Sandwich Meat/Cheese, a Side dish or Dessert. Try to bring 12 or more servings. Don't forget a swimsuit as this park is on the beach! All family members are welcome including parents of the service members. So join us as we reach the 2-month mark. We look forward to seeing you all there!
P.S. Don't forget to check the care line for updates (619) 699-8469...opt.3# !



From the desk of.... Father Shaughnessy

"Belleau Wood Sailors have responded in great numbers to the Uniting Through Reading (UTR) Program. Already numerous video tapes of sailors reading to their families have been made. An important part of the UTR program is what is called the "Full Circle" effect.

Here is how the full circle effect is accomplished:

1. Sailor makes a video tape and sends it home.
2. Family receives video and then makes a video of the children watching the original video from their sailor (if family does not have a camcorder, still photos also work)
3. Family sends video to their sailor
4. Sailor watches family members react to his/her original video
5. Process starts all over again

The result is greater satisfaction, knowing how important the service member is to their families. Families also benefit from the ongoing communication!

So, on behalf of the Belleau Wood sailors who are participating in the program, SEND THOSE "FULL CRICLE" VIDEO TAPES!"

Care Box Suggestions

- ✎ International Coffees
- ✎ Taped TV Shows
- ✎ Stamps/ Self addressed envelopes
- ✎ Shoe insole cushions
- ✎ Razor Blades
- ✎ Dry Soup Mixes
- ✎ Deodorant
- ✎ Candy or Protein Bars



Use your imagination, let your sailor know that you are thinking about them.

Rate/Rank, Name, USN
Division
USS Belleau Wood LHA3
FPO AP 96623-1610

The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer someone else up - Mark Twain



SPOTLIGHTing
The American Red Cross Armed Forces
Emergency Services (AFES)
(800)-951-5600 or (619)-542-7552

Military life often creates unforeseen hardships. This is where the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services can help. They are always there to help you:

- ✦ *Stay in touch with loved ones.* The Red Cross worldwide emergency communications network operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. AFES will help you or your family send emergency messages regarding death or serious illness of a family member, the birth of a child, or other family emergencies.
- ✦ *Get verification of emergency leave information.* The Red Cross can provide you and your command with fast, reliable information to help make decisions regarding emergency leaves, deferments, compassionate reassignments, and dependency discharges.
- ✦ *Secure emergency financial assistance.* The Red Cross collaborates with the military aid societies in providing financial assistance when an urgent personal or family crisis arises - that is, when you might need financial assistance for emergency travel, burial of a loved one, or urgent health and welfare needs such as food and shelter.

Contacting the AFES does not guarantee emergency leave will be granted. The Commanding Officer is the only one who grants emergency leave. He will, however, factor in the information obtained by the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services.

Please contact the ombudsmen on either emergency number after you have contacted AFES. We will assist in sending a "heads-up" message to the Captain.

OPERATION TIGER CRUISE



This is a program provided for ships returning from deployment which allows friends and family to join the ship during the transit from Pearl Harbor back to San Diego. To participate, Tigers must be a minimum of eight years old and in reasonably good physical condition. For personnel who invite guests, they can be either a friend or family member. Spouses or significant others are not allowed to participate. Guests will embark in Pearl Harbor the day prior to departing for San Diego. The sponsor is responsible for the cost of food while their guest is embarked. More information will be promulgated shortly.

The **tentative date** for the cruise will be 7-15 December, with Tigers embarking in Pearl Harbor on 6 December and departing the ship upon arrival in San Diego. Because this is a tentative date, and is subject to change, we highly encourage all participants to purchase refundable airline tickets.



If you are interested in participating, email your service member and s/he will put your name/s on the list.

Are you expecting a **New Hatching**? Or do you have a **New Hatching**? Please let us know by emailing or calling the careline. We would love to share your upcoming arrival or new arrival!

Did you get "baby's from the Corps Relief



know you can first sea bag" Navy-Marine Society.

Call (619) 238-1060 for more information.

What's that NUMBER again?

Careline: 877.668.8036 x2
or 619.699.8469 x2

Email: bwdombudsman@hotmail.com

Emergencies : 619.666.9624
or 619.666.9628

Email Sailors: last name @lha3.navy.mil

Family Matters : 619.699.8469 x 3*
*this is an out going message only.

Website: www.lha3.navy.mil